

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yang *et al.*

Art Unit: 1714

Serial No.: 10/787,530

Dkt. No.: RPI-3877

Filed: 2/26/2004

Examiner:

Title: PRODUCTION OF POLYMER NANOCOMPOSITES USING SUPERCRITICAL FLUIDS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed on November 7, 2006, Applicant hereby provisionally elects Group I, claims 1-16, drawn to a method of forming a polymer nanocomposite, classified in class 523, subclass 347. This election is made with traverse, and Applicants hereby reserve the right to file a divisional application in connection with unelected claims 17-28, drawn to a polymer nanocomposite system, classified in class 524, subclass 445.

With regard to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of all claims 1-28 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the search and the examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP § 803, in which it is stated that “if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions” (emphasis added). Applicants respectfully submit that this

policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge and/or credit Deposit Account 19-0513.

Should the Examiner require or request anything further from Applicant's prior to examination, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below. Otherwise, Applicants request early and favorable examination on the merits

Respectfully submitted,
FOR:

Dated: 11/30/2006

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